

## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
  - a forwarding element ~~adapted~~ to perform data forwarding in a computer network,  
the forwarding element configurable with a device-specific instruction set;
  - a control element ~~adapted~~ to perform network signaling and control in the computer network, the control element outputting non-device-specific instructions to configure the forwarding element;
  - an interconnecting element operatively connecting the forwarding element to the control element; and
  - a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element to receive for ~~receiving the~~ non-device-specific ~~uniform standardized data set~~ instructions from the control element, translating the instructions ~~uniform standardized data set~~ into a ~~proprietary specialized data~~ the device-specific instruction set ~~to of~~ of the forwarding element, and transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element ~~to configure the forwarding element~~, wherein the forwarding element utilizes the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to configure the forwarding element for performing data forwarding in the computer network ~~to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, further including an opaque forwarding element plugin for receiving the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions from the control element and transmitting the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions to the forwarding element plugin, and for receiving the ~~specialized data set~~ translated, device-specific instructions from the forwarding element plugin and transmitting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are transmitted in the form of a binary large object.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the forwarding element further includes a decapsulator that receives the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions and decapsulates the ~~specialized data set~~ them into data readable by a device-specific forwarding element interface of the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are transmitted to a decapsulator in the forwarding element for decapsulating the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are encrypted before transmission to the forwarding element, and the encrypted ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are decrypted at the forwarding element.

7. (Original) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the forwarding element plugin is a dynamic link library.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a computer device, the method comprising:

generating ~~a uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions by a control element for configuring a forwarding element;

transmitting the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions from the control element to a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element;

translating the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions into ~~a proprietary device-specific instructions specialized data set to~~ for the forwarding element; and

transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element for configuring the forwarding element ~~facilitating integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set.~~

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding element is adapted to perform data forwarding in a computer network.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the control element is adapted to perform network signaling and control in a computer network.
11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:  
receiving the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions, by an opaque forwarding element plugin<sub>1</sub> from the control element; and  
transmitting the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions, by the opaque forwarding element plugin<sub>1</sub> to the forwarding element plugin.
12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:  
receiving the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions, by an opaque forwarding element plugin<sub>1</sub> from the forwarding element plugin; and  
transmitting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions, by the opaque forwarding element plugin<sub>1</sub> to the forwarding element.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:  
decapsulating the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions into data readable by a device-specific forwarding element interface of the forwarding element for configuring the forwarding element.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are sent in the form of a binary large object.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:  
encrypting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions before transmitting  
the ~~specialized data set~~ them to the forwarding element; and  
decrypting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions at the forwarding  
element.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding  
element plugin is a dynamic link library.

17. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium  
storing instruction that, when executed by a processor, the instructions perform,  
receiving a ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device specific instructions,  
generated by a control element, for configuring ~~the a~~ forwarding element ~~generated by~~  
~~the control element;~~  
translating the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions into  
a ~~proprietary~~ device-specific instructions ~~specialized data set to~~ for the forwarding  
element; and

transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element for configuring the forwarding element ~~to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the instructions further perform:

receiving the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions from an opaque forwarding element plugin; and

transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the opaque forwarding element plugin.

19. (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the instructions further perform:

encrypting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions before transmission to the forwarding element.

20. (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the ~~proprietary specialized data set includes~~ device-specific instructions are transmitted in the form of a binary large object.

21. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 17, wherein the machine-readable medium includes a dynamic link library.